

President's Message

Maureen O'Connell



Dear Friends,

One common thread among our members is a love of reading. A favorite Christmas present this year was **Maureen Corrigan's** new book entitled *Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading: Finding and Losing Myself in Books*.

I have often shared this sentiment. As you may know, Corrigan is

president

NPR's book critic on *Fresh Air* and teaches literature at Georgetown University.

Her memoir opines on books that have shaped her life. Since I, too, was raised an Irish Catholic on the East coast, it is probably not surprising that we read many of the same books during our childhood and adolescence. One of my favorite sections of this book is her recommended reading list.

In December, I also read **Ruth Reichl's** fascinating new book, *Garlic and Sapphires, The Secret Life of a Restaurant Critic in Disguise*. In this memoir, she recounts her experiences as a restaurant critic for the *New York Times*.

I just learned that HBO has purchased the rights to her books for a TV series.

Another book recommendation is *The Passionate Olive* by **Carol Firenze**. I must disclose that Carol is a good friend who lives in Los Gatos.

She and I have shared many adventures during the process of the writing and publishing of her book about the non-culinary uses of olive oil. For example, we went to New York City to meet with her editor at Random House and with her agent.

During the research phase, we attended the Sonoma Olive Festival for several years. Events at the Festival include olive oil tastings, an olive-themed dinner, complete with olive oil ice cream, and the blessing of the olives at the Sonoma Mission.

Carol will be our guest speaker at our Friday Forum on April 7. I urge you to attend. It promises to be an engaging presentation.

Please accept my best wishes for 2006.



Friends Board Members: Top row: Mary Ann Cook, Martha Alderson, Dale Hill, Ray Clark, Kathie Gaylord, Maureen O'Connell and Virginia O'Reilly. Front row: Pamela Laurence, Doris Epstein, Rita Baum, Gwen Davis, Carol Hamilton, Marge Rice and Joanne Crum. Missing: Judy Etherington, Heather Cady, Jean Nelson, Lilo Campeau and Amanda Jaramillo.

Muralist John Pugh to present slide show May 19

The last Friends Friday Forum of the year for 2005-06 will be renowned muralist **John Pugh**, whose studio is in the Los Gatos hills.

Pugh, a trompe l'oeil artist (fool the eye), will present a slide show of his award-winning murals May 19 at the Friends' annual meeting. A short business meeting will precede his talk.

Pugh has won awards and commissions from all over the country – indeed, from all over the world. Several

of his photographically realistic pieces distinguish Los Gatos walls, both public and private, inside and out. For instance, his work is on the Honda agency wall on Los Gatos Boulevard, on the Pasta Restaurant wall on Main Street across from the library, inside the Great Bear Coffee shop and in private homes.

Pugh has been featured in art books and his latest recognition is a biography devoted to the muralist and

his art, written by **Kevin Bruce**. Pugh will sign copies of the book at the Friday presentation.

His work usually incorporates a history of the site where it's displayed. Crumbling classic architecture is often a signature element of his work. It's claimed that so real are his images that people tend to strike up conversations with the people he's depicted in the murals.

Now, that's fooling the eye.

Young Writers' Workshops

Friends board member and author, Martha Alderson will again teach youngsters the crucial elements of building a story when she offers Young Writers Workshops in February.

"It's exciting to watch the magic happen with the discovery of their gifts," says this dynamic leader. Some kids sit down and write feverishly, others may have a story in their heads or in a drawing but are worried about putting pen to paper.

No problem: a volunteer will do the writing for them. All skill levels are welcome.

Martha teaches writing at U.C. Santa Cruz and leads writing workshops for both children and adults. She holds a masters in speech pathology and undergrad degrees in psychology and speech. The enthusiastic Los Gatan established and directed a speech, language and learning disability clinic for children aged 4-18. As the author of *Blockbuster Plots*, her website is blockbusterplots.com

children

Friends of the Library will also sponsor a workshop at the San Jose Children's Center at a later date.

Workshops will be held on Saturdays at the Neighborhood Center, 208 E. Main St. from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The schedule is:

February 4, ages 8*-12

February 1, ages 13-16

February 18, ages 8*-12

*Students younger than 8 are not eligible.

Writing materials, drinks and cookies will be provided, but bring a lunch.

To register, mail registration form and a check payable to Friends of Los Gatos Library or FLGPL, to 110 E. Main St., Los Gatos 95030 or drop off registration and check at the library. Cost for students registered by Friends of the Library is \$10, others \$15.



Young Writers Workshop Registration

Student's Name	Age
Workshop Date	New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing <input type="checkbox"/>
Street/City/Zip	Phone
Email	
Parent's Name	

We'll phone, email or send a post card to confirm your registration. For more information call the Friends message line at 399-5700.

Children's Winter programs

January 19, 3:30 p.m.

Sing along with Lisa Atkinson
Ages 0-6

February 16, 3:30 p.m.

Storyteller, juggler and magician Bob Kann
Ages 4 and up

February 23, 3:30 p.m.

Duct Tape Art with Diana
Ages 12 and up
email:
teenlibrarian@losgatosca.gov
for more information

March 16, 6:45 p.m.

Family Night with Magician Norman Ng
Ages 4 and up

Teens read to kids

Every Thursday, 3:30- 4:00 p.m.

4th-7th grade book clubs

Meet the last Thursday of every month: 4th graders 3:30-4:10 p.m.
5th graders 4:15-4:55 p.m.
6th and 7th graders 5-5:40 p.m.

Storytime Schedule

Mondays, 10:30 a.m. ages 2-3
Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. ages 3-5
Fridays, 10:30 a.m. ages 0-2

Books Together reading

All ages welcome 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.



Read One, Knit Too

Read One, Knit Too opened at the library just two months ago but already attracts a fluid group of 10 or more at its Tuesday evening meetings from 6-8 p.m. It's a knitting group, and its godmother is **Diane Otter**, library cataloguer. She's assisted by library staffers **Linda Dydo** and **Judy Coughlin**. Another library worker active in the group is **Carol Pham**, who learned to knit from Otter shortly before the ROKT group formed. Pham has already produced a scarf and two pairs of fingerless gloves. The crafters exhibit a wide variety of skills and experience and both men and women are part of the action. Some are beginners; some even spin their own wool, including a hus-



Board member Pamela Laurence models new navy blue T shirt and tote bag with Friends' logo. Each sells for \$10.

Book Sales

Gwen Davis reports that Friends took in \$1,493 for the month of December-\$1,148 were shelf sales, \$345. from Peggy Conaway's book *Images of America: Los Gatos*. In November, totals were \$1,454 from donated books on library shelves and \$100 from Peggy's

books &

band/wife team. But, what's this got to do with the library, you may well ask.

Well, one woman participant had never owned a library card before, but she immediately signed up, and the next day was back with two grandchildren in tow.

That's a solid example of how the group was designed to work, using the library as a meeting place to network. Knitting is very popular these days, Otter says, as witness craft stores that now carry four times the supplies they once did to accommodate knitters.

And the new store in town, **Yarn Dogs**, is another case in point. Knitting and reading are both credited with relieving tension. And in these stressful days, it's no wonder more and more folks are gravitating to these pursuits.

Indeed, one's personality traits may even be affected. Otter says she herself saw an increase in her patience in dealing with others since wielding the needles on a regular basis.

Eventually she hopes to offer demonstrations of spinning and more complex procedures such as intarsia. And projects such as knitting for the needy may be a focus in the future.

Word of mouth, bookmarks extolling the group, and the Internet all helped spread the word of the fledgling gathering.

Children's Shelter needs readers

After the last newsletter request, a few Friends volunteered to read stories to children at the County Shelter on Union Avenue and we want to thank you. But more volunteers are still needed to read stories, either one-on-one or to groups 1 year and older.

Children in the Young Writers Workshop held at the Shelter last spring said they were not able to relate to heroes and other story-book characters because none of

them had read a book, or had one read to them.

Both volunteer readers and donated books are needed, said **Mark Forrest**, recreation leader at the shelter.

Volunteers must provide identification, be finger printed and fill out an application, which takes only a few minutes.

If you can volunteer for one or more hours a month, or donate children's books, please call the Friends message line at 399-5700.

You could make a difference in a young person's life.

history book. **Dale Hill** sold \$360 over eBay and **Linda Dydo** received \$138 from book sales to Friends of Friends.

October chalked up \$4,313. Quarterly book sale accounted for \$2,482; shelf sales, \$1,365; history book produced \$290; and sales to the Santa Cruz bookstore were \$177.

September figures: \$1,258 in ongoing sales; \$162 for the Los Gatos history book, generating \$1,420 total.

Friends will be selling copies of *The Souvenir* by **Louise Steinman**, the speaker at the Silicon Valley Reads Forum program February 10 on the day of the event. 

Library Director's Corner

Peggy Conaway



The year of 2005 was a good one at the library, filled with busy and productive days. One of our major accomplishments was the successful reorganization of our staff, done in a continuing effort to streamline operations and reduce our costs. This was especially true in the area of technology services. Since the modern library is a technology intensive operation, I am especially pleased that our new circulation supervisor, **Carol Pham**, was able to assume her new duties so quickly and successfully.

Carol has responsibility for our integrated computer system, our network, and all of our staff and public hardware and software. Carol had a steep learning curve in her new position, and she approached it with great dedication and hard work.

Thanks also to **Linda Dydo**, assistant library director, who worked side-by-side with Carol to accomplish the changeover.

Other accomplishments in 2005 included the installation of thin-client software and new terminals in our public service areas, the addition of down-loadable digital books for the public, re-carpeting of the main floor adult area, and the establishment of online ordering for library collections.

More than 11,000 children, teens and adults attended library

director

programs in 2005, and we conducted our annual Second-Graders Library Card Campaign. Our fourth annual Town Wide Read featured *Dear Voices* by Los Gatan **Lea Frey**.

In June I traveled to Listowel, Ireland, reciprocal to the Irish visitors from our Sister City who visited Los Gatos in March. I was honored at a reception organized by Jimmy Deenihan, a member of Dail Eireann, one of two houses of the Irish Parliament.

Community outreach included meeting with members of about 15 families, gathering information on their Los Gatos heritage for the continuing library and museum history project.

I gave 13 presentations for local businesses, clubs and schools on the history of the town, usually with PowerPoint visuals. The library supplied historic photo images for the opening of Main Street Burgers and for St. Mary's School 50th anniversary publications.

A highlight of the year was the September 29th premiere of *Los Gatos: Then and Now*, a full length documentary on the history of the town. The film was beautifully produced in high-definition by Los Gatans **Valerie Archer** and **John Wainwright's** Lyric Media company. They worked for nearly a year with library and museum staff and volunteers to organize and research all the information and images that appear in the production.

I felt a great sense of pride when the credits at the end of the

film showed that 25 companies/organizations and about 75 individuals had contributed to the effort.

The premiere was a gala event, sold out well in advance. The film was presented again at the Los Gatos Theater on October 26 for those who missed it earlier. A short version of the film won the Spirit of Los Gatos award at the 2005 Cinecats Film Festival.

Plans for 2006 forecast another busy year. Friends have joined Silicon Valley Reads: One Book, One Community and **Louise Steinman** will present her book *The Souvenir: A Daughter Discovers Her Father's War* at the Friends' Friday Forum February 10. Copies are available for check-out at the library.

Our library will become a part of the California Libraries Catalog in 2006, which will grant our patrons access to all the public library catalogs in the state.

We expect to upgrade our Sirsi-Dynix integrated computer system, and install a new server. **Linda Dydo** and I will take part in the Silicon Valley Library System Strategic Plan, our consortium of Bay Area libraries.

I will continue to provide a local history feature to the *Los Gatos Weekly Times* each week. We will continue our partnership with the Museums of Los Gatos, hope to install wireless technology in the library, upgrade the furnishings and unveil our ContentDM History Project database for public use via the library website.



Friend Indeed: Pat Bernauer

by Mary Ann Cook

It should be easy to spot **Pat Bernauer** as she strolls around town. She'll be the one with her nose in a book or a newspaper as she picks up litter, she says. She's part of the town/chamber Beautification Committee. Which is how **Marge Rice**, book sale priestess, met her, since Marge's husband, **Rob Rice**, is also a member of that committee.

Mrs. R. probably signed her up on the spot, which wasn't too difficult, because: "I always wanted to be a librarian," says Mrs. B. "That is, when I wasn't busy being a ballerina." Result: now Pat is a most dedicated stalwart at the Friends' book sales, held every three months.

I don't know how firmly tongue is embedded in cheek with the remark about being a ballerina, but the avid reader

did say she had taken considerable ballet training. However, "Life got in the way," as Bernauer puts it, and, besides ballet and books, she was a salesperson in antiques shops, led exercise classes, and worked for various banks.

Her husband, **John Bernauer**, is an IBM engineer,

soon to retire. The Bernauers grew up in Milwaukee, have lived in Los Gatos since 1972. And Pat immediately gravitated to the library. She expects to spend more volunteer time at the library after her husband retires. They live nearby-on College-and she said she considers any other constant library devotee a pal.



Worker Bees prepare for the book sale to the delight of Gwen Davis, center. Flanking Gwen are (left) Madison Dias and (right) Bob Martin and Barbara Karski.

Carol Firenze finds 101 uses for olive oil Friday Forum April 7

Local author and educator **Carol Firenze Anglin** will teach the multiple delights and uses of olive oil when she is the featured speaker at the **April 7 Friday Forum, Town Council Chambers. The program starts at 7 p.m. with the author signing copies of her book, *The Passionate Olive*, followed by her talk-and olive oil tasting at 7:30 p.m.**

Anglin's grandparents came from Italy and she has been passionate about the uses of olive oil all her life, culinary and non-culinary-wise.

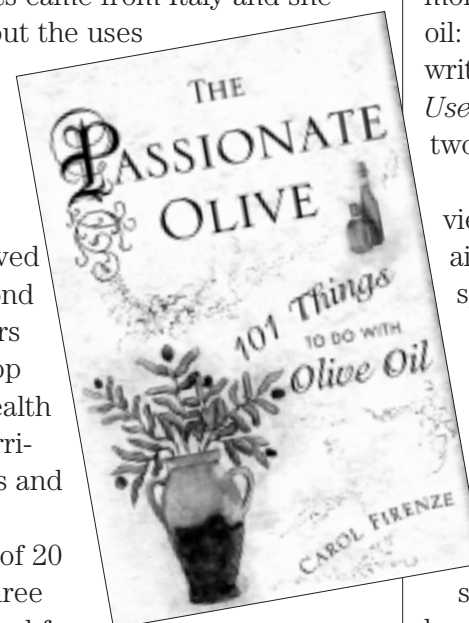
The book is full of warm reminiscences of her childhood, and beloved family recipes. But beyond that, the reader discovers that olive oil is a one-stop cure-all for furniture, health ills, makeup, and such irritants as squeaking doors and hangovers.

The book is a result of 20 years of research and three years of writing. It evolved from a sixsome of old friends who met regularly to dine on Italian food and named themselves the Olive Oil Club.

Anglin, who lives in Los Gatos, visits Italy regularly and is a member of the California Olive Oil Council. Having lived in London, Brazil and Saudi Arabia, she has presumably enjoyed olive oil in every clime.

Olive oil is one of the oldest commodities known to man throughout the past 4,000 or more years of civilization. The oil is a component of religious ceremonies in the world's three major religions: Christianity, Judaism and Muslim. The word Christ actually means the anointed one: anointed with olive oil, that is.

Leprosy, hangovers and baby's cradle cap can all benefit from olive oil. It's an antioxidant and has anti-aging properties, the author says. It can calm the stomach and aid the digestive tract, can suffocate ticks and smother head lice.



Is it any wonder olive oil has been credited with magical powers?

Since the book's publication Anglin has heard from scores of readers who have supplied her with even more uses for the mystical oil: she may be forced to write a sequel called, *2,001*

Uses for Olive Oil. The author herself goes through two bottles of the elixir per month.

She's talked to local service clubs, has been interviewed on TV: a segment from *Eye on the Bay* will air in January. Check the Channel 15 website for specific time.

"Olive oil has really been a hot topic this year and that has certainly helped my book-all the benefits of cooking, lowering cholesterol, beauty benefits," she says.

This self-described "olive oil evangelist" has been a history teacher, says that olive oil has been a unifying force throughout history. Today she teaches industry leaders how to team build and become a more effective leader.

(P.S. This article proved difficult to write because I kept having this urge to leave the keyboard to saute vegetables in extra virgin.)



Kevin and Estelle Kennedy pull out the emotional stops in Dennis Carter's play, Diving for Abalone, presented at the Fall Forum.

Meet the Staff: Thien Dinh

by Mary Ann Cook

Thien Dinh, library assistant and children's support staff, was the first baby of Vietnamese parents to be born at Stanford Hospital. Or so claims a newspaper article from 1979 when Thien made his appearance.

"That's my only tidbit," says the graphic guru, who has been helping out lately in the children's department, decorating that room, and conducting story times on Friday.

Besides all these duties, Dinh is working on the new website for the library, which should be up and running by mid-January. Thien is in charge of inter-library loans and processing new books, so a wide variety of duties fill his days. He also attends De Anza College fulltime, in preparation for San Jose State University, where he intends to get his computer science degree. Grad work is also on his future agenda: he'll aim for a library science degree. After working at both Santa Clara City Library and the Los Gatos Library, Dinh is convinced that's the field for him. He finds library work much more fulfilling than working in the software industry, where he's also worked. He was an employee at Sequoia Retail Systems of Mountain View, providing software to be used by college bookstores.

But in the library role, "I feel I'm helping people and society," he says. "And, at the end of the day, my stress level is a lot less than when I worked in computer software." Dinh particularly enjoys working with children. He's been at the Los Gatos library for three years now.

Cycling is his latest outdoor interest and he rode in two charity drives last summer. "It's the perfect pace for me," he says about cycling. And, for inside action, sounds like the LG library is the perfect space for Thien.

Photo credits: Pamela Laurence and Carol Hamilton

